

WHY REGULATION

THE NEED FOR DOG/CAT BREEDER REGULATION

Minnesota has no state laws to regulate the dog and cat breeding industry. Due to lack of regulation, animals are harmed, consumers are misled and communities are left to care for thousands of sick, abused or unwanted animals.



Photo by Animal Folks MN

CURRENT "SYSTEM" IS NOT WORKING

- 1. Animals harmed** - Animal anti-cruelty statutes are vital but they kick in *after* the cruelty occurs, and only if a person sees the cruelty or conditions, reports it and the sheriff investigates. Regulation is preventative — allowing for inspections so cruelty can be prevented *before* it occurs.
- 2. Strain on local government** - Relying on cruelty investigations and prosecution as a means to encourage ethical business standards is time-consuming and costly for local law enforcement, animal control and the courts. Regulation is based on compliance to standards — for efficient use of resources.
- 3. Consumers defrauded** - Unscrupulous breeders sell unhealthy dogs and cats to unsuspecting consumers who then may incur thousands of dollars in veterinarian bills to treat their sick dog or cat. Yet consumers rarely file complaints if sold an unhealthy animal. Regulation would help consumers differentiate between good and bad breeders by providing a State "stamp of approval."
- 4. No clear authority** - Because Minnesota has no state laws to regulate dog and cat breeders, it also has no designated authority to oversee this industry and hold commercial breeders accountable for their business transactions. Regulation designates a state agency to assume responsibility.
- 5. Communities forced to "clean up" mess** - Minnesota has some of the largest dog breeding kennels in the nation — housing 600, 800 or more breeding dogs with unlimited puppy production. Tens of thousands of sick, abused or unwanted dogs and cats are cared for by local humane societies and rescue groups at their own expense. Thousands of animals in Minnesota are euthanized yearly due to lack of homes and resources. Regulation will help lower the burden on communities.
- 6. Lax USDA enforcement** - The USDA licenses and regulates certain dog/cat breeders and dealers — those who sell wholesale (i.e. to pet stores). A recent audit by the Inspector General of the USDA's regulatory actions has concluded that the USDA has failed to protect animals from harm. State regulation would close federal loopholes and ensure enforcement within the State of Minnesota.
- 7. Taxpayers hurt** - Pet transactions are taxable. In 2010, Animal Folks MN conducted a study showing that 74% of sampled breeders did not hold a sales tax permit. Regulation will make it easier for Minnesota to collect sales tax from dog/cat breeders, contributing additional revenues to the State.
- 8. Reputable breeders hurt** - Demand for smaller, designer dogs promotes high-volume production and "low" prices, making it difficult for reputable breeders to compete. Many breeders now sell animals through websites or online breeder directories, which hides kennel conditions. Regulation will provide greater transparency, improving business practices and conditions.
- 9. Other states taking action** - Other states (including Wisconsin and Iowa) have passed breeder regulation. Some breeders are moving out of regulated states and to *unregulated* states.

HELP STOP INHUMANE DOG AND CAT BREEDING IN MINNESOTA

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